



**Town of Whitingham
Office of the Selectboard**

MINUTES OF JULY 31, 2019

These Minutes shall be accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted) at a future meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard.

The Whitingham Selectboard held a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at 6:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Wayne Wood, Vice Chair and members: Wayne Corse, Craig Hammer, and Scott Reed.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; Laura Sibilila, Christy Betit and James Walker of BDCC; Sharon Berry, School Board Chair; Dan Hollister, ACO; Brad Lackey, Planning Commission Chair; Phil Edelstein, Planning Commissioner/EDG Member; Seth Boyd, EDG member; Mike Eldred, Deerfield Valley News; Stanley Janovsky, Road Commissioner.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda.

Wayne Wood called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. There was one change to the agenda under "other business" to add "Animal Control work assignments" as an executive session.

Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda) none

Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation

BDCC coordinates regional economic development by providing services to businesses within the Windham region. They do strategic long-term planning and work on long term goals. They have focused a lot on workforce. They organize internship programs that connect college students with prospective employers.

Laura Sibilila briefly discussed internet service.

Planning Commission to discuss memo from WRC regarding River Corridors

The Selectboard reiterated that they are not in favor of regulating River Corridors.

Brad Lackey explained a "free board" requirement that could be imposed in the updated Flood Regulations. He also mentioned the proposed requirement to ban new building on current vacant lots in the flood zone but doesn't feel that will affect many property owners.

Sharon Berry-discuss playground equipment at school

Sharon Berry, School Board Chair, came to the table to bring the Selectboard up to date about what they found out through an insurance inspection of the school playground. According to the inspection report the playground equipment is no longer safe. Most of the equipment has been there for over 30 years. The school board is considering removal of the equipment and looking for another location to put it. The equipment is not ADA compliant, so if they keep it, they would need to make it accessible. The school board meets on August 13th at 6pm at the Whitingham school building to discuss how best to proceed.

Ms. Berry noted that many towns people use the playground equipment at the school on the weekends and during ball games.

She is not asking the Selectboard to do anything at this time, she is just providing information.

Justice of the Peace position opening

The Selectboard received a letter of resignation from Barbara Baum/Rachels from the position of Justice of the Peace. Gig will post that the position is available and the Selectboard can recommend an appointment of the position to the Governor at the August 28th meeting.

Appoint Carol Millet to Town Hill Committee

The Town Hill Committee recommended Carol Millet as a new member of the Town Hill Committee. **A motion was made by Wayne Corse to appoint Carol Millet to the Town Hill Committee, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.**

VTrans paving project

VTrans will be paving a portion of VT Route 100, five of our sewer manholes are in the project area. We received a contract from VTrans for \$6,000 (estimate of \$1,200 per manhole and there are 5 in their right-of-way) to adjust the manholes to accommodate this project. **A motion was made by Wayne Corse to sign the contract with the state to repair the manholes during the VTrans paving project, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.** Wayne Corse wanted it clear in these Minutes that the Selectboard was told that if the price comes in higher, they can cancel the contract.

Gig will schedule a meeting with the sewer engineers to discuss the 20-year evaluation report for August 28th.

Education Funding Litigation – Executive Session

Mike Eldred questioned if there was any unclassified information about the lawsuit such as what the schedule now seems to be. Seth Boyd answered that the case is moving forward although at a slow pace.

7:36pm **A motion was made by Wayne Corse to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the town's education funding litigation would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage if its legal strategy was made public, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

A motion was made by Wayne Corse to enter into executive session to discuss education funding litigation under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes to include Gig Zboray and Seth Boyd, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

With no decisions made executive session was exited at 7:46pm. Wayne Corse volunteered to be the new contact person for the case.

Approval of Payables Warrant – August 1, 2019

A motion was made by Scott Reed to approve Payables Warrant W2006 dated August 1, 2019, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Approval of Payroll Warrant – August 1, 2019

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to approve Payroll Warrant W2005 dated August 1, 2019, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes of July 17, 2019

A motion was made by Wayne Corse to approve the Minutes of July 17, 2019 as written, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Other business / Office Administrator – as needed

Wayne Wood spoke with Sheriff Anderson who will come meet with the board on August 28th.

Wayne Wood will not be at the August 14th meeting, Mr. Corse will chair the meeting.

A motion was made by Craig Hammer to authorize the treasurer to transfer \$37 from the Whitingham Animal Fund to pay \$22 to the dog license fee line and \$15 to be placed in the line item for the fees to the state, seconded by Scott Reed, all in favor.

The audit that was scheduled to start today was rescheduled to early October.

Animal Control Citations

Citations #118263 and 118264 were issued on July 15, 2019 to Kristen Breeden for 4th offense unlicensing of two dogs. Ms. Breeden complained to Almira Aekus on July 25th stating that the dogs were licensed on the same date that the tickets were issued. **A motion was made by Scott Reed to void the two citations, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.** The Selectboard signed a letter to the Judicial Bureau requesting they void the tickets.

Animal Control work assignments

8:01pm **A motion to enter into executive session to discuss employee work assignments under the provisions of Title 1, Section 312(g) of the Vermont Statutes to include Gig Zboray and Dan Hollister was made by Wayne Wood, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.**

With no decisions made executive session was exited at 8:48pm.

Wayne Corse questioned Mr. Hollister about an animal control issue on the Cross Road. Mr. Hollister is addressing it.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Wayne Corse, seconded by Craig Hammer, all in favor.

Wayne Wood adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, ~Gig Zboray